

[1st February 1923]

A.—(1) & (2) A statement is laid on the table.*

- (3) The Government have not received any complaints regarding canvassing.
- (4) Books are removed from the list of approved books when they have become obsolete and sometimes for special reasons.
- (5) The Government have no information. If the hon. Member will give specific instances, the matter will be inquired into.

Selection of polling officers for Legislative Council elections.

750 Q.—Mr. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (1) whether during the last election for the Legislative Council any principle was adopted in the selection of polling officers;
- (2) whether it is a fact that in the Northern Circars some of the polling officers were in sympathy with the non-co-operators;
- (3) whether it is a fact that the polling officers abused the instruction that they could sign for illiterate voters;
- (4) whether it will not be possible to make better arrangements in future;
- (5) whether it is a fact that in the last elections great confusion prevailed because of the ignorance of the polling officers in regard to the different constituencies voting at the same polling booths; and
- (6) whether it will be possible to make better arrangements in the choosing of polling officers?

A.—(1) Yes.

(2), (3) & (5) The Government have no information.

(4) & (6) These questions do not therefore arise.

Depressed classes representation in the Coimbatore taluk board.

751 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of nominated members on the Coimbatore taluk board, and how many of them are non-Brahmans; and
- (b) whether there is no member of the depressed classes in the Coimbatore taluk board; and why?

A.—Members of taluk boards are appointed by the President of the District Board. The hon. Member may address the President in the matter.

Adi-Dravida voters in the electoral rolls of Polur and Tiruvannamalai taluk boards.

752 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (1) the number of Adi-Dravidas registered as voters in the electoral rolls of the Tiruvannamalai and Polur taluk boards; and
- (2) whether they have nominated any Adi-Dravida representative to these boards; if not, why not?

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- A.—(1) The Government have no information.
 (2) Members of taluk boards are appointed by the President of the District Board. The hon. Member may address the President on the matter.

Location of the tuberculosis hospital.

753 Q.—The RAJA OF RAMNAD: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state when it is proposed to shift the tuberculosis hospital from Temple Gardens to the building on the Spur Tank site; whether in-patient wards are available in the latter building and, if not, when they are expected to be constructed and at what cost?

A.—The Tuberculosis Institute at the Spur Tank has no accommodation for in-patients. The question of constructing a ward there for in-patients is under the consideration of the Government; until the ward is built the present hospital cannot be removed from "Temple Gardens."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Sir, I find my question has not been answered. The answer is that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. I do not know whether this means that the very question of constructing an in-patient ward is under consideration, or whether the design, plans and the probable cost are under the consideration of the Government. When the hospital was located in the Temple Gardens, there was a great apprehension in the minds of the residents of the locality and there was also considerable agitation. But the people were told that the hospital would be shifted to the Spur Tank at the earliest possible date as soon as the construction of the in-patient wards was completed. Now the answer given is that the matter is under consideration. I wish to have further details on the point from the hon. Minister."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There are two schemes relating to the question. Which of them should be taken up is engaging the attention of the Government. So, until the Government decides it, it will not be possible to give any definite answer as to which scheme will be adopted and at what cost."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Will the decision of the Government be arrived at before the Budget time so that provision may be made in the Budget for the construction this year. If it is to be delayed, nothing will happen in the course of this year."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I cannot say definitely whether it can be decided before the Budget time."

Conversion of one leave into another in Government service.

754 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) whether heads of departments are authorized to convert one kind of leave into another; and

(2) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent, Government Press, has granted leave on average pay even when the employees are eligible for casual leave?